11-25. (canceled)

<div align="center">REMARKS</div>

This amendment is submitted in response to the Examiner's Action dated July 9, 2008 and pursuant to telephone conference with the Examiner of September 9, 2008. Applicants have canceled several claims and amended the remaining independent claim to more clearly and completely recite the novel features of the invention. No new matter has been added, and the amendments place the claims in better condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to the claims. The discussion/arguments provided below reference the claims in their amended form.

Applicants are not conceding in this application that the previous independent claims and their dependent claims, as previously presented, were not patentable over the art cited by the Examiner. The present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the remaining claims, which are allowable over the references. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue the previous claims and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications.

CLAIMS OBJECTIONS

In the present Office Action, Claim 1 is objected to because of informalities. Accordingly, Applicants have amended Claim 1 to remove the stated informalities and overcome the claim objections. The amendment also place the claims in better condition for allowance.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the present Office Action, Claims 1, 5-8, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wheeler* (U.S. Patent No. 6,892,302) in view of *Kean* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0199110) and in view of *Brickell* (U.S. Patent No. 7,142,674). Further, Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Wheeler* in view of *Kean* and in view of *Brickell* and in view of *Wood et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2006/0072747). The above combinations of references do not render Applicants' claimed invention unpatentable because those combinations do not teach or suggest several features recited by Applicants' claims.

First, Applicants' hereby incorporate, by reference, the arguments presented in Amendment C. As stated by the Examiner in the present Office Action, *Wheeler* does not expressively mention hashing a secret number with a public key and comparing the hashing values for verification. Examiner relies on *Brickell* to support rejection of these novel features of Applicants' claims. Additionally, the Examiner relies upon *Brickwell* to support the rejection of "transmitting" and "verifying" steps in Applicants' claim 1. However, *Brickell* fails to teach or suggest the "transmitting", "hashing", or "verifying" steps as recited in Applicants' claim 1, as amended.

At page 4 of the present Office Action, the Examiner relies upon col. 4, lines 29-46 and Fig. 2 of *Brickell* as teaching the claimed "transmitting" feature. However, on careful reading of *Brickell* it is clear that these sections merely disclose a processor generating short and long nonces and subsequently hashing the nonce pair with a generated public key. To those skilled in the art, it is obvious that *Brickell* is solely concerned with a processor generating the nonce pair and creating a hash value from a public key and the nonce pair, and *Brickell* does not teach or suggest transmitting a secret number as recited in Applicants' claim 1.

In direct contrast, Applicants' claimed invention is concerned with transmitting, to a credential server, a non-public secret number via a secure communication medium. The secret number is only externally provided to the credential server to allow the credential server to match a hash within an endorsement key with the secret number. The credential server receives the unique secret numbers via a secure transmission medium. *Brickell*, however, only discloses generating long and short nonces at the processor. The cited passages of *Brickell* are completely devoid of any transmitting of a secret number to a credential server via a secure communication medium, as recited in Applicants' Claim 1. This feature is clearly not taught or suggested by the above description of *Brickell* or a combination of the references.

Additionally, the Examiner relies upon col. 4, lines 29-46 and Fig. 2 of *Brickell* as teaching the claimed "hashing" feature as related to a second copy of the secret number. The cited passages of *Brickell* only disclose creating a first hash value by hashing a public key with randomly generated short and long nonces. In contrast, Applicants' claimed invention recites

hashing a second copy of the secret number with the public key of the endorsement key pair. A novel distinction in Applicants' invention is the first and expected hash value, as recited, comprise of a public key hashed with a unique secret number stored on the credential server, rather than an amalgamation of a public key and 2 randomized nonces as disclosed by *Brickell*. This feature is clearly not taught or suggested by the above description of *Brickell* or a combination of the references.

Next, the Examiner relies upon col. 6 lines 6-16 and Fig. 3 of *Brickell* as teaching the claimed "verifying" feature. However, on careful reading of *Brickell* it is clear that these sections merely disclose a peripheral checking a hash value of a short nonce, long nonce, and processor's public key with a first hash value sent by a processor. It is obvious that *Brickell* is solely concerned with a peripheral comparing a hash value of the two randomly generated nonces and a public key with a hash value from the processor.

In contrast, Applicants' claimed invention is concerned with comparing, at the credential server, an expected hash value calculated from the public key portion of the endorsement key and the received secret number with the received endorsement key of a device. *Brickell*, however, only discloses a peripheral comparing a hash value of a short nonce, long nonce, and processor's public key with a first hash value sent by a processor. The hashed values compared by *Brickell* are created from randomly generated numbers and a public key, where the Applicants' Claim 1 discloses comparing hashed values derived from of a received secret number with the received endorsement key of a device. Additionally, the comparison, as disclosed by *Brickell*, occurs on the peripheral itself, rather than on a secured credential server as recited in Applicants' Claim 1. The cited passages of *Brickell* are completely devoid of any mention of a credential server comparing an expected hash value calculated from a received secret number with a received endorsement key of a device, as recited in Applicants' Claim 1. This feature is also clearly not taught or suggested by the above description of *Brickell* or a combination of the references.

The above deficiencies in the teachings and suggestions indicate that the combinations of these references do not teach or suggest the subject matter of Applicants' independent claim. From the above discussion/arguments and the reasons provided therein, it is also clear that the
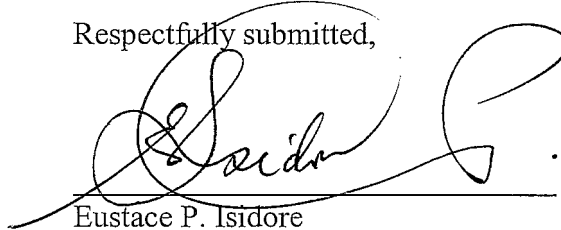
combinations of references do not suggest other features of Applicants' claimed invention. Thus, one skilled in the art would not find Applicants' invention unpatentable over the combinations of references. Applicants' independent Claim 1, and by virtue of their dependency on Claim 1, all other pending claims are therefore allowable over the combinations.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have diligently responded to the Office Action by amending the claims to more clearly and completely recite the novel features of the claimed invention. Applicants have also provided discussion/arguments which explain why Applicants' claims are not obvious in light of the combinations of references provided. The amendments and arguments overcome the §103 rejections, and Applicants, therefore, respectfully request issuance of a Notice of Allowance for all claims now pending.

Applicants further respectfully request the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney of record at 512.343.6116 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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